

The Fig Tree Project [Stonehouse]

[An Incorporated Charitable Organisation]

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 March 2023

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Reference & Administrative Details

Year Ended 31 March 2023

Trustees

Catherine Thompson
Su Chard [From 25/05/2022]
Marc Chevalier
Keith Creighton [Until 30/06/2022]
Lesley MacLeod-Downes [Until 30/09/2022]
Stephen Harrison [Until 25/05/22]
John Thompson
Lia Tonkins
Irwin Wilson

Secretary

John Thompson

Treasurer

Marc Chevalier

Registered Office

Hillgrove
Verney Road
Stonehouse
GL10 2QD

Charity Registration Number

1183851

Solicitors

Leeper Prosser
High Street
Stonehouse
GL10

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

The Fig Tree Project [Stonehouse]

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Trustees Report

Year Ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees 'Annual Report 2021 - 2023

The Fig Tree Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation run in accordance with our Governing Document. Our Governance Structure comprises a board of trustees who are elected by the trustees for a three year term of office, which may be extended by subsequent terms. The board of trustees provide strategic overview of the work of the CIO, establish and maintain policies and guide the work and vision of the organisation.

The function of risk management lies with the trustees and is reviewed on a regular basis.

Charitable Objects and Objectives

The Objects of the charity as set out in our governing document are:

The advancement of the Christian faith in Stonehouse and the Severn Vale west of Stroud in such ways as the trustees think fit including through pastoral care and outreach into the community as a means of carrying out the mission and outreach work of the faith, for the benefit of the public.

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Trustees Report (Continued)

Year Ended 31 March 2023

Achievements during the year 2022 - 2023

This report is the first to cover a full year of the charity's activity. It has been a period of growth and consolidation which has seen The Fig Tree accepted as a place of welcome at the heart of the town. Its place in the community has become established and it has developed a network of positive relationships with groups and individuals across the Stonehouse.

Retail sales have been consistent, and voluntary financial giving has also begun to grow, which gives trustees confidence in making plans for the future as grant-aid decreases and a period of reduced rent comes to an end over the first three years.

The volunteer team has seen a healthy turnover and growth. The team has become more diverse and developed a younger profile. People who first joined an activity group have been keen to volunteer their time and support, sometimes offering specific gifts and sessions.

We continue to run around 10 regular activity groups which address a number of needs in the community, and we increasingly see personal support networks developing amongst those who attend. During the year, The Fig Tree has hosted ~500 sessions which are free and open to the local community. Many sessions are focussed to appeal to the most vulnerable in society, including young families, the elderly, the lonely, immigrants and those in poverty. Over 200 households from the local community have had some interaction with The Fig Tree. Short - term evening groups such as 'funeral planning' have also been popular and we have been a significant presence at town-wide initiatives such as the GoodWill Fest at Christmas.

We have also become a place where people look for leadership and support at times of international crisis: we were quickly able to gather goods for an earthquake appeal, and our regular Ukrainian language support sessions grew from an early response to the Russian invasion.

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Trustees Report (Continued)

Year Ended 31 March 2023

Priorities for 2023 - 2024

The lease on the High Street premises is due for renewal in May 2024. The first priority of the trustees is to secure the lease for at least another three years. Trustees are confident that there is scope to develop the work of the Fig Tree further, and will be looking to employ a part-time worker to enable the charity to continue to grow and flourish.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

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Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 March 2023

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Income:

Opening Balance 01/ 04 / 22:	£14,885
Sylvanus Lyson's Charity	3,750
Tesco Groundworks	500
Retail Sales	14,487
Donations	3,131
TOTAL	£ 21,868

Expenditure:

Rent	£ 8,505
Other property Costs, Insurance	1,264
Cost of Sales	7,144
Other expenses	765
TOTAL	£ 17,678

Net Cash Flow: + £ 4,190

Closing Balance 31/03/2022: £ 19,075

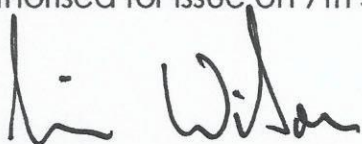
Surplus on Retail Sales: +£ 7,343

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Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 March 2023

The financial statements on page 6 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 7th September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



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Irwin Wilson - Chair of Trustees